

PEACE NEWS

For War-Resistance and World-Community

No. 684

August 5, 1949

THREEPENCE

TOMORROW IS PEACE DAY

Give your answer to the
war-planners

OF all the ceremonies planned for the public celebration of Peace Day tomorrow, none will be more significant than those at Hiroshima, under the leadership of the Mayor, Shinzo Hamai.

There will be a 2-hour broadcast at 8 a.m. from Hiroshima, from where also flights of doves will be released.

The World Peace Day Committee, of which Prof. Sadayasu is chairman, has arranged observances throughout the country. Large meetings will be held in Kyoto, Osaka and Nagoya and Kobe. A youth organisation in Tokyo has mailed 3,000 Goodwill Letters to individuals and organisations of foreign countries.

Preparations for meetings, broadcasts, sermons have been made in Australia, the Philippines, New Zealand, South and West Africa, and the island of Mauritius.

The large meeting of the Caravan of India in Delhi will be of a special significance. It is expected that, as last year, the entire Diplomatic Corps will attend and deliver addresses.

In nearly all of the Central European countries there will be special observances of the occasion, including Hungary, where two women's organisations have planned meetings all over the country. In Berlin, a special committee, including delegates from peace and world government organisations, has been holding a Peace Week, which will culminate tomorrow in a big public meeting.

A WORLD PEACE CENTRE

In USA, 4,000 delegates of the Northern Baptist Convention in San Francisco have re-affirmed last year's commitment to their 7,000 churches, so has the Church of the Brethren with 2,000 churches.

Perhaps the most important of all tomorrow's activities will be the beginning, on the part of the World Peace Day Committee, of a world-wide drive for the establishment of a World Peace Centre at Hiroshima.

This is conceived as an international co-ordination centre for all peace and world

government activities, for research, constructive planning, education and propaganda.

For this World Peace Centre, the city of Hiroshima has donated the site of Hiroshima Castle, and in New York the World Peace Centre Foundation Inc. has been formed under the leadership of Pearl Buck, John Hersey, Norman Cousins and other prominent people.

The seriousness of this project was underlined by the recent declaration of Hiroshima as "The Eternal Peace Commemorating City" by the unanimous vote of the Japanese Diet.

As the "Platform Proposals" for meetings, The World Peace Day Committee has adopted Resolution II of the Swedish Peace Campaign.

UNITED PEACE FRONT

This resolution includes the demand for the cessation of armaments competition, international disarmament, replacing of war and violence by justice and law, development towards a Federal World Government, respect for the new declaration of human rights, the right of all peoples to freedom and independence, and security from want.

Participating in these international commemoration celebrations are War Resister bodies, World Government organisations, Women's and Youth organisations, Vegetarian, Esperantist, Veteran, various cultural institutions, churches, UN Associations, political parties, labour organisations, etc.

The WPD headquarters in Oakland, California, has received a letter from the Government of the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs, assuring its complete accord with the worthy objectives of the International Peace Propaganda Campaign, and expressing the hope that the observance of Peace Day will serve as a reminder of the need for lasting peace throughout the world.

Who's the menace now? AMERICA ASKS HER SATELLITES FOR UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO MILITARISM

TOMORROW, men of goodwill throughout the world are re-affirming their will to peace. Men of bad will have chosen this time to re-assert their faith in armed force and make a threatening gesture of aggressiveness.

The USA Government has announced the "Plan of Joint Defence" against Russia.

"The first priority in the joint defence is America's ability to deliver the atomic bomb," says U.S. Chief of Staff General Bradley. And the Press takes up the threat with the headline: "America Will Deliver the Bomb."

The "hard core of ground power," says the Plan, will be provided by the Continental nations.

This means, in plain language, that while the Americans are doing the long-range bombing from the air, the Europeans will provide the gun-fodder whose function will be to face a Red Army many times their size.

Senator's brutal speech proves true

This confirms the recent speech by Senator Clarence Cannon, published in Peace News, which was widely denounced on both sides of the Atlantic as callously brutal and menacing.

As it is now seen to be a correct statement of American intentions it is worth repeating. The Senator said:

"Moscow and other Russian centres we must hit within a week (of the outbreak of



—Peace Action (USA)

disseminate our economic recovery by vast preparation for destruction.

Do a bit of thinking!

Let the British people ask themselves calmly—What actually is the danger of Communism?

Let us take for granted the worst that can be said about the Soviet regime, including slave labour, imprisonment without trial, and the rest of it.

Let us even grant that Communism is working hard in all countries to sabotage production and bring about economic collapse so that poverty and discontent may create revolution and establish Communist world government.

Even if it is all true—and there is plenty of evidence for it—it is still no reason for assuming that Russia has any intention of military aggression.

The analogy with Nazism is false. Before the war we knew the Nazis planned military aggression, because the cult of militarism was the breath of life to Fascism.

That is not the case with Communist Russia. Even our leading politicians—to say nothing of our loquacious generals—admit that Russia would have everything to lose by war, and that the defeat of Communism by arms would only result in the subsequent spread of Communism.

As Sir Richard Acland said in the House of Commons: "I do not believe the Soviets will invite the atom bomb to fall on them by launching the Red Army westwards."

The Russian threat is imaginary

Neither does any level-headed person believe it.

The Russians and their satellites, like the Americans and their satellites, are arming because they have worked themselves into a frenzy of panic, believing they are to be attacked any moment.

The real motive of these arms programmes is not danger from abroad, but hysteria in high places.

The warlike statesmen tell us to be realistic and face up to the danger.

Very well, let us be so. Since they will not tell us what the danger is, let us be realistic on our own account.

This is the reality of the situation:

There can be no attack by Russia until she possesses the atom bomb. And if she did possess it, the Western land armies, together with the civilians of Britain, France, Holland and Belgium, would be obliterated by millions and their soil rendered sterile for generations.

Can Russia avoid the suspicion that America is planning to attack her before she has time to develop the atom bomb?

That is the only interpretation the Russians put upon these vast preparations for her destruction demanded by USA.

And many British people, too, would welcome any alternative interpretation.

IN HYDE PARK TOMORROW

SPEAKERS at tomorrow's Hyde

Park "No More Hiroshimas" demonstration will include Stuart Morris, General Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union; Dr. Posin, American atomic scientist and Frank Beswick who was in Nagasaki when it was atom-bombed.

The Hyde Park meeting will commence at 5.30 p.m. on the Green near Marble Arch.

Tonight's poster parade

Poster Parades and leaflet distribution will take place this evening at 6 p.m. and on Saturday at 2 p.m. Volunteers should meet at 54 Baker Street.

war). We will not necessarily have to send our land army over there.

"In the next war, as in the last, let us equip soldiers from other nations, and let them send their boys into the holocaust, instead of sending our own boys. That is what long-range planes means.

"We will absolutely demoralise the enemy. . . . We will blast at centres of operation, and then let our allies send the army in, other boys, not our boys, to hold the ground we win."

Quoting this utterance in our columns, the American pacifist, Rev. A. J. Muste, described it as "a crude and terrible comment."

That "crude and terrible comment" is now officially announced to be the policy of Western Union, imposed by America upon Europe, and supinely accepted by the British Government.

We trust the British people now understand what it means to be a Satellite State.

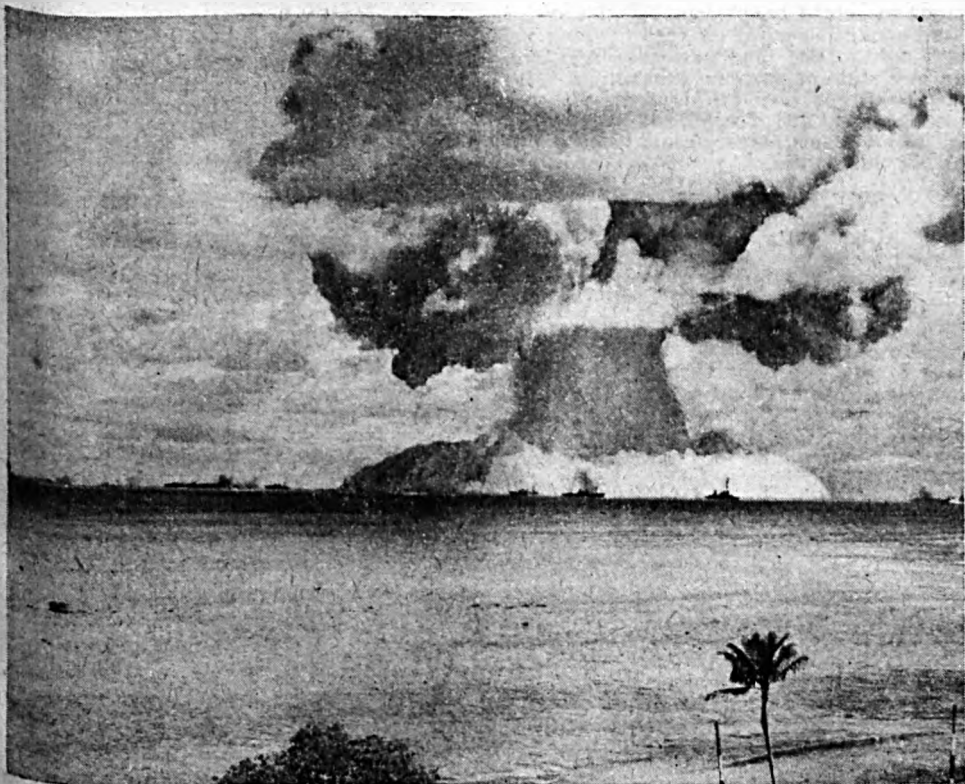
We may ask once again—What are these preparations for?

Not a single Western statesman, British or American, has yet given us a scrap of evidence to show we are in danger from Russian military aggression.

All we know is that Russia is doing what we are doing—arming for war.

If our Government has any further evidence, not yet publicly disclosed, they should tell us, before we proceed further to jeopardise

This was a little one!



This picture of the underwater atomic bomb explosion at Bikini was taken by an automatically operated camera on a nearby island. Today, when the U.S. boasts that she is now producing far more powerful bombs, the 400 square mile lagoon is still radio-active. Fish in the lagoon and coconuts from palm trees on neighbouring islands contain enough radio-active material to be ultimately dangerous if eaten, despite the fact that the bomb was dropped two years ago. U.S. Navy photo

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The Parrots

THE leading statesmen of the world seem to be trying to talk themselves into war.

The iron curtain being sound-proof, we cannot hear all they are saying over there, but from such samples as do trickle through, we gather that the Russian people have to listen to the same hysterical ravings, poured out with the same meaningless, parrot-like monotony, as we do.

Together the two sides present an undignified spectacle, as of two truculent small boys, spoiling for a fight, each trying by provocative insults to incite the other to begin it.

And the parallel is not inapt, for, after the manner of quarrelsome juveniles, each says precisely the same things about the other, with complete disregard of truth or originality.

If only one statesman, on either side, would say something about the other side which had not already been said by both sides, we would welcome it as a most refreshing change, even thought, as usual, it was probably incorrect.

They cannot even use language correctly. They say "defence" but mean "attack." They say "security" but mean living on the edge of a volcano.

Day by day they shout about the menace, but they come no nearer to telling us what the menace is. The nearest approach to a semblance of an explanation was, perhaps, last week's speech by Mr. Acheson, U.S. Foreign Minister, who said:

"The mere existence behind the iron curtain of the greatest peace-time combination of military forces the world has ever known, constitutes a form of pressure which has helped to maintain unpopular minorities of Communist conspirators in power.

"The people of Europe are frequently reminded of such power by carefully timed and skilfully staged displays of Soviet might, such as the recent exhibitions of jet aircraft in Moscow.

"Nor can the possibility of direct military aggression be ignored. When political aggression fails, totalitarian regimes are often tempted to gain their objectives by military means."

Almost word for word that utterance could be made—and probably is made—with equal justice by the Soviet spokesmen. They can say:

"The mere existence, in front of the iron curtain, of the most devastating weapon the world has ever known, constitutes a form of pressure by which a minority of capitalist conspirators keep the world in suspense.

"The people of Europe and Asia are frequently reminded of such power by such carefully timed and skilfully staged displays of American might as the recent exhibitions of atomic power at Bikini.

"Nor can the possibility of direct military aggression be ignored. When political or economic aggression fails, democratic nations have continually, over the past two centuries, gained their objectives by military means."

Is either of these statements more correct than the other?

Last week the Sunday Times said: "The armed co-operation of these (Democratic) peoples . . . can be maintained at an effective level only if the danger which calls for it is kept steadily before the electorates."

The electorates are still waiting for a coherent account of what the danger is.

When shall we grow up?

AT the moment of going to press it would appear that the most important event in modern history is the Amethyst exploit.

This trivial incident has, judging by the front pages of the newspapers day after day, incited the nation to an ugly exhibition of juvenile hysteria.

Witnessing such national excitement and celebrations from a distance without knowing the cause, anyone would think that Britain had made up her dollar deficit, or that the housing shortage had been wiped out, or that Russia and America had made it up, or that the dismantling of German factories had ceased—or at least that somebody had done something of some benefit to mankind.

There is an age at which excitement over such stories of normal military or naval adventure is natural to the male of the species. One might fix it anywhere below 13. And there is, we know, a tendency for modern popular newspapers to appeal to the lowest intelligence of the greatest number. They have their circulations to think of.

But it would be interesting to know whether the adults of this nation really are still at the mental age when they played soldiers in the backyard, and really are

suffering from arrested adolescence, or whether the Press has been inspired to this childish outburst in the interests of that recruiting drive which so far has proved such a failure.

However that may be, let us hope that here and there among the few people who have grown up, there are some who can remain sufficiently calm amid all this excitement to ask—"What was the Amethyst doing there anyway?"

When it comes to killing . . .

DEMOCRATIC British and American politicians continually express their deep concern regarding the increasing powers of the State and the gradual extension of centralised control. So, generally for different reasons, do we.

But their objections apply mainly to the control of the central authority over the production and distribution of the means to the maintenance of life. When it comes to the production and distribution of the means of destroying life, their attitude undergoes a startling change. Then, no authority is too big, either in its power or in the area of its control. When preparing for war, they demand a supra-national authority of the largest possible size, covering at least half the world.

The tragedy of German women

"Christ and World," a German, non-political, evangelical weekly publishes, in its June 30 issue, the following statistics on the present age structure of men and women in Germany:

MEN over 20		WOMEN over 20	
Unmarried	3,800,000	Unmarried	5,200,000
Widowers	1,100,000	Widows	5,100,000
Divorced	300,000	Divorced	500,000
"Free" women over the age of 20		10,800,000	
"Free" men over the age of 20		5,200,000	
Women expected to remain unmarried		5,600,000	

For the age group 20-30 there are 1,700,000 women who have no chance of marriage.

The number of war-widows between the ages of 20-40 is 1,300,000 (German males were conscripted up to the age of 60).

HOW I BECAME A PACIFIST

By Magda Yoors Peeters

Belgian writer and lecturer, member of the War Resisters' International, and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and the PEN Club. Her husband is Eugene Yoors, world-famed stained glass artist.

The following is an extract from a pamphlet published by the International FoR, 38 Gordon Square, W.C.1.

the side of the road. As I stood looking at it I felt a human presence.

Thinking it might be a child who had lost its way and had been overcome by fatigue or cold, I bent down. As I touched it and spoke it turned its face towards me and I felt rather than saw that it was a man in a state of extreme exhaustion. With difficulty I got him to his feet. It was freezing hard, and I could not have gone back to my warm homely room leaving this man outside to die.

As no answers came to my questions we walked towards my temporary home in silence. I had put the stranger's arm round my neck to support him. How often had I done this when helping wounded soldiers from the train to the ambulance! !!

When I had taken this man in and set him on a chair, I turned on the light. I will never forget the sight that met my eyes. It moved me in such a way that there was no time for reflection. This man, with bare, bleeding feet, to whose rescue I had gone with feelings of humanity and brotherly solidarity, was looking at me with eyes infused with blood. He wore a ragged military uniform which I at once recognised.

His eyes rested on me, then he perceived the Belgian flag above my desk, and when he turned his gaze on me again he burst into tears. I, too, burst into tears.

The man was a German soldier. When I was quiet enough to speak and he also had regained his balance, I asked him where he had been coming from.

"Out of hell," was the answer. He had run away from the front, driven out of his senses by a bayonet attack. He had fled through the night, hidden himself during the day, and walked and crawled towards what he knew was the Dutch frontier.

He did not know where he had got to,

The Western Union arms plan demands nothing less than the merging of the whole of North America and all the Western European nations into one great Federal State.

What we have here is a perversion of the idea of world government or federal union. Applied to social construction, economic co-operation, cultural development and political progress, those are still revolutionary ideas held by a small progressive minority, and dismissed as unthinkable by orthodox politicians who regard national sovereignty as sacred and inviolable. But applied to destruction they accept it readily as an obvious and absolute necessity.

When it comes to mass-killing, these people o'erleap the barriers that separate the peoples and become as international as you please.

Still, they've got the germ of the idea. By federating for world war, they've knocked on the head most of their own arguments against federating for world peace.

Hiya, Satan! Still here?

WE congratulate the pacifists and other anti-militarists of New Zealand on the stiff fight they are putting up against the conscription which that outpost of democracy has so far managed to resist.

As regular readers of Peace News will have observed, the pacifist movement of that small nation has a degree of courage and energy out of all proportion to its numbers. And apart from them, it is heartening to know that among other bodies of opinion the fundamental democratic conceptions of respect for human personality and conscience which received their first impulses from this country, have so far spread as to put up a resistance in every corner of the world.

But how many among English-speaking peoples would have believed, thirty-five years ago, when they or their elders set out to kill Militarism once for all, that they would find themselves today struggling against an even stronger and more widespread form of it?

There seems to have been some mistake in the choice of the means originally adopted to cast it out.

had given up trying to go further and had laid himself down to die, when I found him.

I washed and tended his wounded feet, and bandaged them with linen I had bought for the baby of a refugee. The last for the baby of a refugee. The last civilian suit I had in my possession, which had been preserved for the next man who would go to the front, was given to the man who had fled the front.

Late that night, the German soldier, my brother in Christ, left me after having shared my supper. I put in his pocket all the food I had in the house—very little—and added to it the chocolates reserved for my refugee children's Christmas tree.

When the man had gone a great serenity entered my soul. I could hate no more. I knew that all of us—Germans, Belgians, British, French—who were mixed up in the war, were its victims, and that none of those who killed each other at the front were responsible for the hell into which they had been thrown.

My blindness had been removed.

HARD FACTS

OUR Forward Fund is not providing sufficient money to cover the increased cost of producing Peace News.

If the paper is to continue to appear, we must raise £1,000 by the end of the year and secure an increased circulation.

Peace News week by week will continue to speak out against the spread of militarism, against the conscription of the world's youth and bring news of constructive work for peace throughout the world. How effectively it will do so depends on the support we have from our readers.

How much publicity would the Geneva Diplomatic Conference have had in this country but for Peace News? How much publicity the American Quaker's East-West Declaration?

We must have that £1,000. We must have a bigger circulation.

THE EDITOR

Contributions up to July 18: £284 17s. 3d.

Since July 18: £7 15s. 2d.

Total for 1949: £292 12s. 5d.

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WAR RESISTERS OF THE WORLD ARE UNITED



BART de LIGHT'S 8 POINTS

for direct individual action to prevent
war and all preparation for war*

1. Refusal of military service:

- (a) as conscript;
- (b) as soldier or sailor;
- (c) as reservist (return your military papers to the State);
- (d) as a citizen called to arms;
 - (1) for purposes of manoeuvres;
 - (2) on the occasion of a strike against war;
 - (3) on the occasion of political and social conflicts.



2. Refusal of non-combatant military work even in the Red Cross or the Army Medical Corps which both are by their nature subordinated to the military system.

3. Use every possible means for making anti-militarist propaganda in the army or navy in order to create nuclei of resistance and establish relations between these and the anti-militarist movement with a view to mass refusal of orders.

4. Refusal of industrial or technical and social service:

- (a) refusal to make war materials, munitions, atomic and bacterial weapons, etc.;
- (b) refusal to take part in military aviation;
- (c) refusal to construct barracks and fortifications;
- (d) refusal to make military clothing, boots, etc.;
- (e) refusal to set up type for or to print articles, pamphlets, books, etc., of a military tendency;
- (f) refusal to make military toys;
- (g) refusal to make precision instruments for military purposes;
- (h) refusal to handle, forward or transport anything used for war and its preparation.



5. Refusal to put trade at the service of war (as employer or employee).

6. Refusal to pay taxes.

7. Refusal to put up soldiers billeted on you. (Or they may be received hospitably and as imposed guests may be subjected to a judicious anti-militarist propaganda, while the indemnity paid by the State may be used in favour of anti-war propaganda.)

8. Refusal of intellectual and moral service:

By abstentionist methods:

Refusal to undertake research work which aims at creating means for war purposes or to draw up plans connected therewith, and refusal to direct any technical or intellectual work of preparation for war.

As parents, by refusing to hand over to the State children who have not yet attained their majority, for the purpose of military training or of compulsory military service.

As schoolmaster, teacher or professor by refusing to educate youth in a nationalist, imperialistic or militaristic spirit.

As religious or moral leader, by refusing to sanctify or to glorify national defence and war.

By constructive methods:

Endeavour to place at the service of peace and civilisation alone those technical and intellectual inventions and means which are actually placed at the service of war; endeavour not to pervert science in its applications.

As parents, by educating youth in as free a spirit as possible, and indirectly by awakening respect for others, love for the organic and inorganic kingdoms, sympathy for foreign peoples; by awakening the sentiment of social justice.

As schoolmaster, teacher or professor by educating youth in a truly universal spirit according to the method of self-government. As religious or moral leader, by awakening by word and deed the sentiment of universal solidarity and a sense of responsibility to mankind generally, seeking to sublimate the fighting spirit.

* This plan of anti-war campaign, drawn up by the Belgian pacifist, the late Bart de Light, was first proposed to the International Conference of the WRI at Welwyn in 1934, and published in abridged form by the PPU in March, 1939.

THE INTERNATIONAL!

GAOLED CO HAD GREETINGS FROM MOSCOW AND WARSAW

"I hope that the coming year will give strength enough to overcome all hardships in your way to Peace and Brotherhood of all nations," wrote the son of Leo Tolstoy's secretary from Moscow to a British CO imprisoned as a conscientious objector.

Vladimir Tjchertkoff Jnr. in Moscow, and Amelia Kurlandzka in Warsaw, were but two of the many members of the War Resisters' International in many countries who sent greetings to the conscientious objectors listed in Peace News last year as spending Christmas in prison.

Dutch, French and American COs received greetings from members of the Peace Pledge Union (the British Section of the WRI) all united under the symbol of the broken rifle and in the spirit of the WRI pledge: "War is a crime against humanity."

Footnote: A keen philatelist secured the stamps from Amelia Kurlandzka's card before it was photographed by Peace News.

Tomorrow War Resisters all over the world will be re-affirming faith in their Pledge: "War is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war and to strive for the removal of all causes of war."

How it began

In the latter half of the 19th century, when the Maxim gun and the quick-firing rifle were making European wars rapidly more deadly, Bertha von Suttner raised a lone voice against war by the publication of that famous book, "Lay Down Your Arms".

At first, publishers were afraid to print a book with such a title, but later it was translated into 70 languages and led to such historic events as the Hague Conference and the foundation of the Nobel Prize.

This book may be said to have sown the seeds of war resistance. Its author died before World War I broke out. She never saw how much more terrible than anything she could have imagined wars had become—but neither did she see how war resisters in all the warring countries, unknown at first to each other, formed a silent International which was to reveal itself in later years.

In Britain, within a year of the outbreak of the 1914-19 war, the No-Conscription Fellowship had become a nation-wide movement with thousands of members. Right across Europe in every belligerent country the gallows and the firing squad took their toll of men who refused to serve in their nation's armed forces. The unarmed fight against war had begun.

The War Resisters' International was formed in Holland in 1921, when the Declaration and Statement of Principles were drawn up.

At first it united the war resistance movements in Germany, Austria, Holland and Britain. In 1923 the H.Q. was transferred to England. In 1925 a Constitution was adopted. By that time the WRI had contacts in 19 countries. To-day there are 74 contacts. At the outbreak of World War II there were 54 affiliated Sections in 24 countries.

One of the primary objects of the International is to seek out those, all over the world, whose countries lead them to make the stand of a war resister and put them in contact with one another. It informs each group or section of the work done by the other movements, and suggests activities which might be undertaken.

The strength of the International is the strength of the individual to stand alone; its purpose is to see that no one has to stand alone. The cost to the individual is often heavy. Many have been executed. Thousands have suffered long terms of imprisonment—some in Yugoslavia for 15 and 16 years, in Bulgaria 12 years, in Poland and Roumania five, six and seven years.

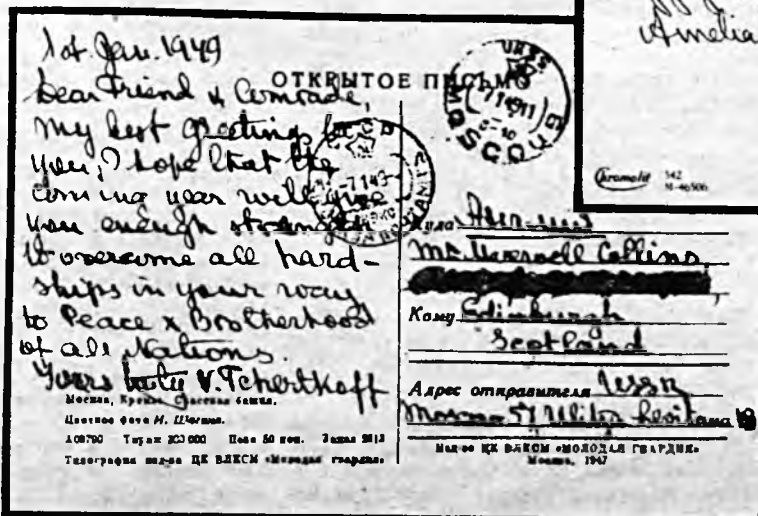
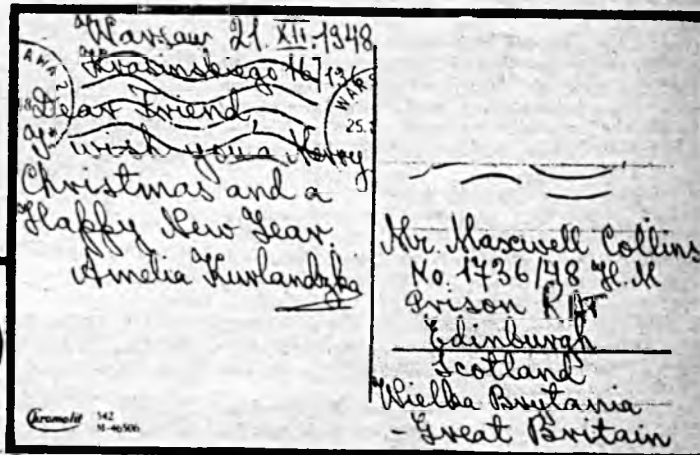
Another object of the International is to give moral, and sometimes financial support to these men wherever they can be contacted, and when they cannot (which often happens), then to their families and friends.

Among bodies affiliated to the WRI are the Bunds der Kriegsdienstgegner (Union of War Resisters) of Germany and Austria, the Nie Wieder Krieg (No More War) of Switzerland, the Danish Aldrig Mere Krig (the strongest of them all), Finland's Unconditional Friends of Peace, a strong anti-militarist movement in Holland, the War Resisters' League in USA, the Australian Federated Pacifist Council, growing movements in Sweden, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Mexico and the South American States, and the British PPU. One of the most important recent developments is the affiliation of the War Resisters' Association of Japan. There, as reported elsewhere in this issue, attempts are being made to establish a World Peace Centre in Hiroshima.



ERNST RAUCHER

A German CO of Stuttgart who was executed on Feb. 11, 1944.



I RENOUNCE WAR AND I WILL NEVER SUPPORT OR SANCTION ANOTHER

This pledge, signed by each member, is the basis of the Peace Pledge Union. Send YOUR pledge to

P.P.U. HEADQUARTERS
Dick Sheppard House, Endsleigh St., WCI

THE PICK - AND - SHOVEL PEACEMAKERS COME TO CRETE

Build a home for the widow Espraxia

EVER since the Easter rebellion of March 25, 1821, a national holiday has been celebrated annually throughout Greece on that date. Patriotic parades, folk dances in magnificent costumes, traditional songs of the klephts (those wild, mountain heroes who first fought for liberation from the Turks), religious thanksgivings with full orthodox regalia and dignity—all these symbols of national life form part of the celebration.

Despite his worldly wisdom and an occasional longing to emigrate to Australia or to the Americas, on March 25 every Greek, from the aged Prime Minister to the shoeshine boys in Ommonia Square, Athens, is perfectly sure that no other country in the whole world possesses anything to compare with the glories of his beloved Hellas.

To seven innocent foreigners, however, ignorant of the real significance of the date of their arrival in Greece—March 25, 1948—grey skies and cold wind, coupled with the sight of closed shops and antiquated trams on the waterfront at Piræus, did not reveal any such soul-stirring emotion. They stood on the deck of the Italian freighter which had brought them from Naples, gazing across the harbour towards the Customs House, hoping that something would turn up, and fearing that it might not.

Seven men of peace

Fortunately something did. Two senior officials from the Ministry of Reconstruction, delegated to meet the seven arrivals from Switzerland, France and Great Britain, sent a motor-boat out to the freighter. Within a quarter of an hour, they were welcoming the first pick-and-shovel peacemakers from Service Civil International (IVSP) ever to land in Greece.

Three weeks later the team was back on the quayside, taking a Greek steamer to Irakleion, commercial centre of the isle of Crete. But even that was not the end of their journey across Europe. Driving a truck lent to SCI by American Friends Service Committee, they set out for a remote village in the Dhikti mountains of south-eastern Crete called Kalamí.

And at Kalamí their pick and shovels began to work. Over sixty families were on the government list of people entitled to receive timber, nails, roofing felt, lime and a little cement with which to repair or rebuild their ruined homes. The community consisted of about five hundred souls.

Help from the ex-president

With the help of a government engineer, the ex-president of the village, and the friendly advice of the entire population, six of the poorest families were chosen. Work on the first job began on May 10. All through the heat of a Cretan summer, five volunteers assisted by villagers, skilled and unskilled, managed to make eight homes habitable, two more than originally planned. Meanwhile the two women members of the team chased flies off the food, stitched, darned, cooked, laundered, and

carried every drop of water to the camp from the village fountain—all under the politely attentive eyes of local women and children, most of whom had never seen compatriots from the mainland before, let alone "Europeans" from lands beyond the seas.

But the greatest source of astonishment was the revelation that these (more or less) educated men and women from wealthier countries like Switzerland, France and Great Britain could leave homes, friends, and families to toil and sweat in impoverished Greece, all for a mere pittance of pocket money each week that wouldn't keep even the poorest villager in cigarettes.

The roofless, one-room home of the widow Espraxia was repaired first. Since 1944

there was Giorgou, invalided out of the Albanian campaign in 1940. He had four boys—thank goodness, he said, because village society requires that daughters be provided with substantial dowries before any man would even dream of asking for their hand in marriage.

Stone for reconstruction, blown out of small quarries above the village, came down to the cottages on mules or donkeys. Minas Dhaskalakis told the team he made over a thousand trips to fetch enough stone for two rooms. It took thirty days hard going to gather sufficient brush from the mountainside to fire a small lime kiln.

Long haul for timber

Timber for floors and ceilings came from the government store in Irakleion, seventy kilometres away on the other side of the island. This was where the ancient Ford truck, veteran of reconstruction service in the Abruzzi mountains of Italy with AFSC and FAU, took a leading part.

"The roads in Crete are under construction," read the team's French guide-book. That 15-cwt. Ford and her drivers bore visible witness to that fine example of Gallic understatement. The first thirty kilometres from Irakleion to the market town of Arkalochori were mild agony for man and machine. Thereafter the road improved slightly, climbed over lower reaches of Dhikti, then dropped smoothly into the enormous bowl of olive groves at Ano Biannos.

By Ford, donkeys and mules

Next the Ford, joists and planks projecting for and aft, had to struggle up the remaining half-dozen kilometres to Kephallorisi, a village 700 metres above sea-level, whence the hardy Kalamiotis would haul the precious timber, strapped to donkeys and mules, across jagged paths to their village, two hours away.

It took until the last week of October for eight simple homes to be completed. Three Swiss volunteers left Kalamí before the end, one Greek-American joined the team in August. His fluent knowledge of the language did much to explain why the team worked only for pocket money, lived unostentatiously in tents, and believed they were doing far too little for Kalamí and its poorest inhabitants. The villagers, on the other hand, felt sure it was their bounden



REBUILDING IN CRETE

For two rooms, two thousand trips by mule and donkey from the stone quarries above the village.

she and her adolescent children lived, ate, and slept in their bakehouse underneath the ruins of the pre-war home. Flies and heat turned this family's only shelter into an inferno from May till October. Then



Top: The SCI (Italian Section of IVSP) camp on the hillside at Kalamí, Crete. Bottom: A member of the team cleaning timber.

duty not only to lend a hand in the hard work of building, but also to see that the little camp was always well supplied with olive oil, fruit, vegetables, and occasionally home-made sweet-meats and a bottle of wine as well.

Judged by their deeds

The very fact that only one of the original seven foreigners knew modern Greek meant that the Kalamiotis and Cretans all along the road from Irakleion to the mountains had to judge Service Civil International by its own declared standard of deeds, not words. Among themselves, volunteers talked endlessly about the effect of their work upon the community they had come to help. They often wondered whether, in their semi-skilled fashion, their small contribution to local well-being justified the considerable expense of sending them to such a remote spot.

There is no crystal-clear reply to their hypothetical question. But when the last volunteers left Kalamí to continue their work on the Greek mainland, they saw tears in the eyes of their village friends.

C.B.W.

Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, August 4, 1939

"If war should come, whichever side may claim the ultimate victory, nothing is more certain than this—that victor and vanquished alike would glean a gruesome harvest of human suffering and misery."

"I do believe that this great fundamental truth is beginning to get down to the minds of peoples and rulers alike."

"It is on that belief that I base my hope that we may yet find a way of escape from the present nightmare, and come once again in to the sunlight of peace."—Mr. Neville Chamberlain in Parliament on Monday.

After hurried preparation and practically no notice to the public, the first Tribunal to hear applications from conscientious objectors under the Military Training Act met in Birmingham last Thursday.

It disposed of the first 18 of the 460 cases of conscientious objection to military service which have been registered in the Birmingham area.

This sitting was intended as an introduction of the tribunal to the work it has in hand and a guide to future procedure. It is expected that at a later period several sessions will be held every week.

Peace News is open for the expression of all points of view relevant to pacifism. Articles in it, whether signed or unsigned, do not necessarily represent the policy of the Peace Pledge Union, of which it is the weekly organ. Nor does the acceptance of advertisements imply any endorsement of, or PPU connexion with, the matter advertised.

MUCH of the Book of Judges is sad reading. Its story is one of repeated moral decline and spiritual failure. In the absence of any responsible controlling authority the general level of life became low and demoralising. No lofty conception of living guided either thought or conduct. The few bright patches which do occur only tend to intensify the general blackness.

The clue to this tragic situation is found at the end of the Book where we are told, "Every man did that which was right in his own eyes." That surely is sufficient information.

This state of affairs is by no means peculiar to the Hebrew people of that day. It is a peril to which mankind has been exposed throughout its social history, and always, to a greater or less degree, it has been present.

The plain fact confronting us today is that for large numbers of people right and wrong have ceased to possess any valid meaning.

Much as we may deplore the present high level of juvenile delinquency, it is something which cannot be viewed in isolation. It is only part of a more general

spirit affecting the whole social order. Where in so many directions everyone claims to be a law unto himself, what can be expected but a dangerous lowering of moral responsibility?

Not only in personal behaviour, but also on the plane of national policy the same tendencies are in evidence. Every nation claims the right to do what will best serve its own ends. Today a nation's conduct is not determined by reference to established moral and spiritual sanctions, but by political expediency and economic advantage. Better to be "politically immature" than morally bankrupt.

"Where there is no vision the people perish" still holds good. Nothing can prevent the undermining of a people's life where spiritual compulsions have ceased to be determinative.

The possibility of creative effort on behalf of human welfare needs to be made real to people's imagination. Why should there not be as much thrill in serving the true interests of one's fellows as in spending one's time in the fulfilment of purely selfish desires?

The only means that will serve the required end is the dynamic of religious principles and ideals. Until religion does become the animating and directing influence and incentive, little hope can be entertained of a changed level of thought and conduct. A religion about Jesus can never be a substitute for the religion of

Jesus. It is in the latter that society is so deficient at the present time.

A new society requires amongst other things three conditions for its re-creation.

First, there must be a revival of faith in the reality of the spiritual. For large numbers of people it has ceased to exist. Not until God is enthroned in the place of sole authority in human affairs can a way out of our present troubles be found. Mankind is caught up in a social and moral tangle which only God can unravel.

Second, there needs to be repentance. This generation, it has been said, having lost its sense of sin, has lost the grace to repent. Self-glorification is the order of the day. Yet penitence and humility offer the only means of escape from the vicious circle in which the world is moving.

Third, regeneration. By that is meant a complete change of heart and life resulting in a re-direction of purpose and will. From an outlook which is centred in self-interest there must be a turning of the eyes and desires towards an entirely new conception of human responsibility and relationships.

A new world will come to birth just when first things are put first. "We must obey God rather than men" is an injunction every bit as binding as in the first Christian century. The urgency of the task permits of no delay if the moral degeneracy now so evident is to be stemmed. If Christianity fails, what is to take its place?

H. J. DALE

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New Zealand's Conscription Referendum

C.O.s TO BROADCAST THEIR OPPOSITION

From A. C. BARRINGTON,

WHETHER or not New Zealand should have conscription is the subject of a forthcoming referendum and throughout the two islands a vigorous campaign is being waged by those opposed to the measure: mainly a minority of trade unionists and pacifists, and those in favour of it: the Government, the Church, the Army and ex-Servicemen's associations.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Peter Fraser and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. S. G. Holland, have left Parliament in session to tour the country, aided by other Ministers, to secure support for the measure.

Only one Labour MP is definitely against conscription and actively campaigning against it.

Election manoeuvre

Peter Fraser, the Prime Minister, at first was not willing to allow any opponents of conscription to broadcast but Mr. Holland, the Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition refused to broadcast unless anti-conscription speakers were allowed (for General Election purposes later this year, he no more believes in freedom than Mr. Fraser does).

Four speakers against conscription have therefore been given equal radio time: Ormond Burton, one of New Zealand's leading Christian Pacifists, imprisoned in World War II; Edward Dowsett, a Quaker and imprisoned CO of World War I; J. A. Lee, a Labour MP until expelled some years ago for criticising the Party leadership, for the Peace and Anti-Conscription movement, and Nigel Wilson who will speak for the 2nd NZ Expeditionary Force Association which has always been opposed to peacetime conscription.

This organisation is a body of World War II ex-Servicemen, distinct from the much larger Returned Servicemen's Association which includes men from both wars and is in favour of conscription.

Both the Government and the RSA are spending large sums of money on full page advertisements in the Press in favour of conscription. In view of Government expenditure for the affirmative, the Peace and Anti-Conscription Federation asked for a grant for the other side, but the Prime Minister said this was ridiculous.

Trouble in Town Hall

So far pro-conscription meetings have not been a success; Peter Fraser and five other speakers tried for two hours to secure a hearing in Auckland Town Hall against what the Press described as "organised pandemonium... obviously planned opposition from shrewdly placed nests of opponents. They included many identified Communists."

According to one newspaper Mr. Fraser said after the meeting that "he noticed some of the noisy elements were not New Zealanders." He had already insisted that all opposition to conscription was Communist, but this new and dangerous note

about foreigners, who are already subject to much prejudice, is ominous.

Although without any comparable resources, the opponents of conscription have been holding indoor and outdoor meetings throughout the country.

Debagged and ducked

The sedate city of Nelson was the scene of an anti-conscription demonstration which was not allowed to proceed, an angry crowd pelting the fourteen men and two women demonstrators with apples and oranges. One man was stripped of his trousers and ducked in a fountain.

What looked like a heavy defeat for the anti-conscriptionists in Nelson, proved, by the resulting publicity, to be a great victory, bringing support for the demonstrators in the form of letters to the Press, protests to the Government and money for the anti-conscription campaign.

At a Christchurch meeting organised by the Peace and Anti-Conscription movement, 500 people heard John Roberts, President of Canterbury Trades' Council, Professor H. Winston Rhodes of Canterbury College and Rev. A. A. Brash (a Christian pacifist and secretary of the National Council of Churches). In Wellington 1,500 people heard anti-conscription speakers and contributed a collection of £225.

What England ought to know

TRAITORS IN THE GOVERNMENT

Colonel's frightening disclosures

DISTURBING information was given recently to the Women's Branch of the East Willesden Conservative Association by Col. E. Mackinnon, MP.

Britain, he said, was on the brink of another war, and but for the atom we should have been attacked already. Our defences were in a state of inadequacy and neglect, and the situation of this country was extremely grave.

Although we were spending more on arms, very little was getting done, for the Government had no coherent plan. Even the possession of the atom bomb was but a temporary advantage, for, he said, "you cannot cramp science, and it will get into the hands of evil-minded people."

By the latter, writes our Special, Political, Diplomatic and Military Correspondent, Lt.-Col. Owlglass, the hon. and gallant Member was understood to refer to the Russians, proof of the evil in whose minds will be forwarded on application to the Secretary of the Women's Branch of the

East Willesden Conservative Association. But it was the reason the Colonel gave for this neglect which has shaken the country, via East Willesden, to its foundations.

"The reason our armed forces have not been brought up to date," he said, "is due to the fifth column and fellow-travellers in the Socialist Party."

Willessden women can take it

Such is the fortitude of East Willessden women, however, that even this shattering disclosure did not strike them speechless.

The Colonel's remark that "Socialists were pacifists and internationalists at heart," drew a discussion on the question of how to treat conscientious objectors.

One suggestion was that they should be disfranchised and given all the unpleasant jobs in the Army.

Unfortunately, however, the discussion terminated without providing any suggestions as to the means by which the unpleasant jobs in the Army can be given to men who refuse to join it.

COUNCIL FOR ACTION AGAINST WAR

To launch nation-wide campaign

A COUNCIL for Action against War was voted into being on July 23 as a result of a Conference held at Trades' Union Club, Great Newport Street, W.C.1.

About 30 delegates from pacifist, Socialist and other anti-war organisations attended. The response to the invitations may seem small; but perhaps the chairman spoke truly when he said that in no other country but Britain could one get a meeting like this for a purpose like this on an afternoon like this—referring to the great heat.

Initiative in calling the Conference was taken by a small ad hoc group of devoted people who have given unsparingly of their time to the cause, also responsibility for the initial expenses.

Commonwealth, ILP and PPU should be mentioned as lending principal support; Crusade for World Government and British Federation of Young Co-operators provided valuable youth elements; NPC, For and other organisations sent representatives.

All kinds of people can unite

The letter containing invitations to the Conference made its purpose clear. It said:

"The conflict between American and Russian imperialism and aggression is bringing the world very near to war. We believe that all kinds of people in many parts of the world can be united in opposing the move to war, or would wish to remain

united in a policy of neutrality if war comes."

Chairman was Carl V. Wheatley of Commonwealth. George Plume, of Enfield PPU Group, on behalf of the Secretariat, opened the discussion from the pacifist standpoint. He moved that the Council be empowered to initiate a nation-wide campaign uniting on the broadest possible base all those forces genuinely opposed to war. This was carried nem con.

He was followed by Allen Skinner, the well-known trade unionist; John McNair, General Secretary of ILP; a West African Negro, Kwesi Lamptey; and an ex-soldier, Paul Stanjer.

West may adopt totalitarian methods

Allen Skinner frankly admitted the difficulty and perplexity of this problem, saying he could not see the way through; but that only emphasised the need to face the issue not shirk it.

He analysed the world situation, not hiding what he called the particularly abhorrent features of the Soviet system. There was a danger of the West adopting totalitarian methods to meet the totalitarianism of the East.

In many countries, however, even behind the iron curtain, there was a growing opposition among the peoples, as contrasted with their governments. These elements are our natural allies, and in spite of the practical difficulties, our cue is to stimulate their development.

Fear is the cause

John McNair, speaking as an anti-war Socialist, saw fear as the dominating factor in both East and West. We must demonstrate the groundlessness of such fears by pursuing a policy of neutrality and giving a lead to other countries to do the same.

The African speaker said a policy of neutrality for colonial countries, with their important sources of the sinews of war, was to be put forward at the Autumn Conference of the League against Imperialism.

It was clear that the calling of this Conference was entirely free from any Communist initiative or inspiration. But it was no less emphatically opposed to capitalism. It stood, in fact, as well as in word neutral between the two world systems.

The burning controversy as to working with Communists and near-Communists in their Peace Campaign could best be resolved by setting up just a united block of peace opinion as the Council for Action Against War envisages—a peace block willing and anxious to co-operate, but strong enough to do so independently on its own terms.

Offers of help and enquiries should be sent to the Council at 12 High Street, Hampstead.

CORDER CATCHPOOL

Notes for your Diary

As this is a free service, we reserve the right to select for publication notices sent in. We nevertheless desire to make it as complete a service as we reasonably can, and therefore urge organisers of events to:

1. Send notices to arrive not later than Monday.
2. Include: Date, TOWN, Time, Place (hall, street); nature of event; speakers, organisers (and secretary's address)—preferably in that order and style.

Saturday, August 6

HYDE PARK: 6 p.m. Open-air meeting; Stuart Morris and Prof. Posin; Hiroshima Day Committee.

NEWCASTLE: 3 p.m. Kenilworth, Wharfedale, Whickham (nr. Newcastle); Garden Party and annual reunion; bring-and-buy; pot-tea; Everybody welcome; Newcastle PPU.

BRISTOL: 6.30 p.m. Durdham Down; World Peace Day meeting; Bristol Peace Council.

LIVERPOOL: 3 p.m. Peace News selling and leaflet distribution in Lime St.; Mary Harland, Merseyside Region, 18 Beeton St., Liverpool 4.

LONDON: 10.30 p.m. Meet No. 2 platform, Liverpool St. Station; all night ramble; all welcome; Central London Group.

Sunday, August 7

LIVERPOOL: 7.45 p.m. Blitzed "Stratford" St.; Open-air meeting; helpers needed; No-Conscription Council.

HYDE PARK: 7 p.m. Open-air meeting; PPU.

HIGHBURY CORNER: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Islington PPU.

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Stoke Newington PPU.

Thursday, August 11

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air meeting; PPU.

Saturday, August 13

BANGOR: George Hostel; Summer Conference (Aug. 13-20); Crisis for Christendom; Details from For, 38 Gordon Square, W.C.1.

Sunday, August 14

FINSBURY PARK: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Jack Suherland; Stoke Newington PPU Group.

HYDE PARK: 7 p.m. Open-air meeting; PPU.

HIGHBURY CORNER: 11 a.m. Open-air meeting; Islington PPU.

Thursday, August 18

LONDON, W.C.2: 1 p.m. Lincoln's Inn Fields; Open-air meeting; PPU.

Saturday, August 20 to 27

HAYWARDS HEATH: Elfinward; Summer School; speakers: Rev. Stanley Evans, Mr. Percy Bartlett, Miss Agatha Harrison, Rev. Dr. Curtin, Rev. Michael Scott, Rev. J. E. Gowing; Apply for particulars, Anglican Pacifist Fellowship, 1 Adelaide Street, W.C.2.

Essential Reading for Active Pacifists

THE PPU JOURNAL

Monthly Fourpence

From Peace News, 3 Blackstock Rd., N.4, or your local PPU Group (Postage 1d.)

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When corresponding with PN about an advertisement, quote its first words, classification, and date.

We reserve the right to hold over advertisements and to limit the frequency of continuing advertisements.

MEETINGS

WEIGH HOUSE Church, Duke Street, W.1. (Bond St. Tube). Sunday evenings at 7. The Gospel of Peace! Social hour follows.

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LITERATURE, &c.

QUAKERISM. Information and Literature respecting the Faith and Practices of the Religious Society of Friends, free on application to the Friends' Home Service Committee, Friends' House, Euston Rd., London.

WISDOM OF CHINA, by Lin Yu T'ang, 12s. 6d. Art by Gill, 6s. Decameron (complete) by Boccaccio, 12s. 6d. Complete Rabelais, 21s. Pinnegans Wake, by Joyce, 30s. Send for lists of books, Corvins Bookshop, 5 Christmas Steps, Bristol.

LATEST HOUSMANS book list and new Penguin list now available free. Send stamped envelope. Housmans Bookshop (managed by Peace News), 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

PERSONAL

MARRIAGE BUREAU. Suitable introductions arranged privately. Details free Mary Blair (Room 59), 147 Holborn, E.C.1 PPU Group.

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CARETAKER FOR large Meeting House in North Western area. Flat provided with kitchenette. Two bedrooms and living room. Please state age and wage required. Box 77.

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WAR RESISTERS' International web comes gifts of foreign stamps and undamaged air mail covers. Please send to WRI, Lansbury House, 88 Park Avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, Middlesex.

SCHOOLTEACHERS, STUDENTS, and others able to give holiday voluntary help are urgently needed at Peace News office. Clerical work, re-decorating, carpentry, etc. Fares and meals paid for if required. Write, call or phone (STA 2262) 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

EVERY WEEK Peace News contains important news of national and international affairs which cannot be found in the "popular Press." Make the fact known by selling and distributing Peace News every week. Quantities at trade rates, or at half price for free distribution. Large selection of free literature available. Please write Peace News, 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

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To M..... (Newsagent's name)

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Address.....

Note to Newsagent—PEACE NEWS is published weekly as a national newspaper at the retail price of 3d. It is obtainable by your wholesaler at the usual rates from the Publishers, at 3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4.

THE CARAVAN OF ENGLAND

MIRZA AHMAD SOHRAB, Director of the Caravan of East and West, visited England last month on his way from New York to the Continent.

The Caravan of East and West is an international pen-friendship organisation with some 250,000 membership, who are dedicated to fostering the spirit of understanding between nations.

The main object of Mr. Sohrab's journey to Europe is to visit Germany, where some 50,000 members have joined the Caravan Movement. Many of these people have built their own headquarters, where they meet for discussion, music and social service.

Before leaving for Paris, Mr. Sohrab inaugurated the Caravan of England, where there are several thousand members who are in touch with New York but have no contact with each other. The new English section will publish its own bulletin, have a London Headquarters.

Mr. Sohrab was able to visit some of his pacifist friends here, but others will be glad to know he will be in this country again early in September.

Details of the Caravan of England, its work and plans, may be had from the Hon. Secretary, 14 Lambs Close, Winchester Road, Edmonton, London, N.9.

Foundations of Peace

A LONDON Peace Convention, presenting an open platform, is being arranged by the Vedanta Movement from August 20 to 26, 1949, at 51 Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

The complete programme can be obtained from Vyvyan Jenkins and Radharani Borkar, Joint Convention Secretaries, at the above address. In the evening sessions at 7.30, the representatives of six religions and about twenty organisations will speak. The morning sessions at 11 will be for discussion.

The Convention is sponsored by Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, Edric Connor, the Dean of Canterbury, Sir Richard Gregory, Dr. Joad, Roy Walker, Dr. Alex Wood and others. The speakers include Ronald Chamberlain, MP, Hy. S. L. Polak, Sir John Stewart-Wallace, Rev. Stanley Evans, Reginald Sorensen, MP, Stuart Morris, Ernest Green, MA, JP, Dr. W. Stede, Prof. H. Levy and Corder Catchpool.

How reconcile the Ideologies?

Two of the objects of the Convention are: (1) to discuss the means of abolishing warfare in order to save civilisation from disintegration, and (2) to discuss the means for reconciling the conflicting ideologies of the world.

The Conference intends to prepare the ground for a World Convention of Religions to be held in London in 1950. The Organising Committee, under the Chairmanship of Swami Avyaktananda of the Vedanta Movement, is making contact with different countries, and seeking the moral support of all lovers of peace.

APF's Summer Conference

THERE are still a few vacancies for the Anglican Pacifist Fellowship's Summer Conference, to be held at "Elfinward," Haywards Heath from Aug. 20-27. The subject for consideration is "Pacifism—The World Outlook." Speakers with expert knowledge of their subject have been secured: Rev. Stanley Evans, Russia; Percy Bartlett, Amsterdam; Agatha Harrison (a personal friend of Gandhi's), India; Rev. Dr. Curtin (a Roman Catholic), Rome; Rev. Michael Scott, South Africa; Archdeacon Hartill, the Lambeth Conference.

Booking fee is 10s., the total cost £4 14s. 6d.

The APF announce with regret the death of Harold John Francis Pearson, of Bristol, after a long illness. He will be remembered by many as a cheerful worker in the APF Service Unit and the Hungerford Club.

FOUNDATIONS OF PEACE CONVENTION,
51 Lancaster Gate, W.2.
August 20-26, 7.30 p.m. and 11 a.m. Noted public men and representatives of 20 organisations speak on World Peace.
Tickets: All sessions, 7s. 6d.; Single Evenings, 1s.; mornings, 6d. Apply for programme to Convention Secretaries.

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Letters

What arguments!

I NOTICE in the report of the trial of Quaker pacifists in USA, that the prosecuting attorney trotted out the old argument—"Suppose they came over and attacked your wife?"

It is common knowledge that when war breaks out, the authorities never allow a man to stay at home and defend his wife, but forthwith dispatch him to some distant part to kill other husbands and wives, while his own wife is left without his protection and exposed to danger of being killed in air raids.

Moreover, the militarists obviously do not believe their own arguments. When a town or zone becomes indefensible militarily, they decree that it shall become demilitarised, and that the citizens shall give up all weapons, and the women be left to the tender mercies of the enemy.

When the British Government found it was no longer possible to defend the Channel Islands, it at once ordered the place to be demilitarised and all weapons to be called in.

It was commonly believed that if the enemy landed every woman would be assaulted at the point of the bayonet, and the powers-that-be fostered the idea. Yet every means of military protection was deliberately taken away and the Command went forth that no one was to resist the enemy.

If they really believed that old argument they would surely have said—"Fight to the last man!! Better to die fighting in defence of wives and children than risk the possible enormities of the enemy!"

In their hearts they knew—as later facts proved—that women would be far safer without weapons than with them.

(Rev.) EDWIN FOLEY

38A St. James Road,
Watford, Herts.

Work within the Church

IF the Church cannot show us the way according to Christ's teaching then the heads of the Church must not be surprised at the half-empty churches and the lack of vitality in their following.

The attitude of the Church at the outbreak of the First War caused me to withdraw from the Church. I now believe that step to have been wrong. I have returned to the Church but with a firm conviction that all Christian pacifists should work together within the Church as witnesses to their faith.

I would like to persuade every Christian pacifist to write to their curates, their vicars and their Bishops on this issue. Give them no rest!

FRANCES E. MORGAN

56 Corringham Road, N.W.11.

Peace must be positive

I UPHOLD Mr. Rabbetts' point of view in his letter dated July 1. Miss Edith Wynner and those of her way of thinking, seem to suggest that the positive result of peace may be achieved by the negative means of merely refusing to fight.

By what means would she persuade the whole world to refuse to fight? Even if she could get common agreement to the reasonableness of the policy, she would not have eliminated the animal impulses in men which result in warfare, despite all reason.

Furthermore, there must be a motive, an urge at least as great as that manifested by the totalitarian ideologists, to make men sufficiently morally courageous to stand against the popular nationalistic drift; and must not that urge be based on a desire for a new, and better, heaven and earth? And do we not have the heaven, earth and government that we (the majority) deserve? Therefore how can there possibly be a regenerate world without a regenerate mankind?

So it is that Mr. Rabbetts does well to advocate the setting of one's own house in order, by the practice of peace and love in one's living, since only by this practice in each individual can the reign of peace ever be truly established in the world.

While selfishness and self-indulgence (of which drinking, smoking and preying on the lesser creatures for food are evidences) remain in the microcosm, or individual man, so most surely will they be evidenced in the microcosm, or visible world; and where there is selfishness and self-indulgence there will never be peace.

ESME WYNNE-TYSON

Kildare,

Sydney Gardens, Bath.

One thing more...

THE person who wrote the Commentary of July 15, and the person who made possible its publication have put Destiny in their debt.

One thing more is needful—that it should reach the mass of ordinary people.

Valkarado, H. C. HENDERSON
Elstead, Surrey.

Unconditional surrender

NOW that the politicians are scuttling the infamous ship, "Unconditional Surrender," may I be allowed to recall to your readers that the Conservative Party Annual Conference welcomed and passed a resolution in favour of it (vide Times, May 21, 1943)?

E. S. EVANS

75 Woodcote Valley Road,
Purley, Surrey.

Who goes overboard?

DONALD F. EGNER, quoted in your recent issue, with purposeful exaggeration expresses a wish to drown in mid-ocean "all leading scientists with the exception of those engaged in medical research."

The trouble seems to be that science knows no morals. But this is far more conspicuously true of those engaged in medical research than those helping to fashion war materials. The latter do not see the use to which their discoveries will be put and hurt nobody while working.

The vivisector, on the other hand, tortures animals deliberately, for, as freely admitted before the last Royal Commission, his creed is that "the ascertaining of knowledge is to be put before the suffering of the animal"—a dangerous doctrine, for this kind of logic cannot stop at the lower animals.

I suggest that people who put utilitarian aims before ethics could very well be tipped overboard with Mr. Egner's lot.

The man who is said to have "influenced the course of knowledge in medicine more than any other single observer," viz., Hughlings Jackson, never experimented, but learnt by observation in the wards of a hospital.

Mr. Egner, probably influenced by the Press, wireless and film worship of the holy trinity—Jenner, Pasteur and Lister—that 3-headed idol whose feet of clay are shielded from suspicion, is as sweeping in his exception as in his rule.

But "religion, art and music" will never flourish in an atmosphere of cruelty.

BEATRICE E. KIDD

Hoe Cottage,
Peaslake, Surrey.

International language

I WAS pleased to see mention made in Peace News of the international language journal Cosmoglotta. It surprises me that so few pacifists in this country show any interest in getting a world-language accepted and introduced. Can it be that my fellow-pacifists share the sanguine hope of nationalist patriots that World-English (or World-Pidgin-Basic?) will be accepted with open arms by the Russians, Chinese, Latin-Americans, and the rest?

The key to this problem is neutrality. A planned, neutral language is needed, with simple grammatical rules and an adequate vocabulary. I would recommend those interested to study Ido (Esperanto Reformita), a fully developed neutral language widely used in many lands for over 40 years. I have correspondents in twenty countries, and the use of Ido has not only saved me from learning 10 or 20 languages, but has produced full and clear mutual understanding. Ido is in fact "la quin-tesenco di la europana ed amerikana lingui," and I shall be glad to supply further information to any individual enquirer.

TOM LANG

10 Eaglescliffe Drive,
Newcastle-on-Tyne 7.

Boy teaches Archbishop

WHAT a sad thing it is that a youth of nineteen should be able to show the way to peace more unmistakably than an Archbishop!! One would like to commend William Sneddon for his courage. One would also like to remind the Archbishop that "Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

OLIVE CULLINGFORD

Friends' Cottage,
Upper Goat Lane, Norwich.

Hard words from a young reader

One of our younger readers "not quite so angry as she sounds," makes the following reflection on World War II COs:

A FEW days ago I was told that there were almost 70,000 COs during the war. Reflecting that the circulation of Peace News is now about 10,000 (and presumably many readers were ineligible for the Forces owing to age, occupation, etc.) I realised how very few war-time COs apparently feel it worth their while supporting Peace News.

I wonder if these war-time COs spurned the good offices of the PPU, CBCO and other pacifist bodies when they were called-up and I wonder how many of them think themselves obliged to support them now for the sake of the younger men.

If they have discarded Peace News and peace propaganda through laziness I hope that, should conscription again overtake them, they will either join up, or go to prison without expecting help or thinking themselves hard done by.

NOT WHITEWASH

I CAN assure you that the Commission never intended this to be a whitewashing report. Nor is it.

It has been hailed as a 'complete vindication' of the Press or in any case as a vindication in all essentials. Those who say so cannot have read the Report or cannot have understood it.

This unwillingness to face the facts: this wanton neglect of the plain conclusions of the Report shows the Press, I am sorry to say in a very poor light."

—Sir George Waters, a member of the Royal Commission and former editor of The Scotsman.

Sybil Morrison's

CAMPAIGN COLUMN

"It is not that Christianity has been tried and found wanting; it has never been tried."

— G. K. Chesterton.

IN London, last week, open-air speakers and potential open-air speakers met together to discuss the technique of conveying the pacifist message to the public through the medium of speech.

One beginner had marshalled a large number of historical examples of non-violent and pacifist resistance to violence and tyranny and believed that these examples should be constantly used. As I quoted last week "facts are stubborn things," but it is important, all the same, to select from the facts at our disposal. I propose to write about the selection of facts on another occasion.

What they want to know

An open-air crowd is not particularly interested in history; the ordinary questioner is concerned with contemporary affairs; he doesn't want to hear what happened between Chile and Argentina in 1862, he wants to know how the speaker relates his pacifism to what is happening in Hong Kong today, to the Amethyst incident, to the Palestine problem, to the dockers' strike. He is interested in current affairs not in past history.

The days of spears and arrows are no concern of his except academically; it is the day of the jet rocket and the atom bomb, it is the day of intensive propaganda to induce fear and hatred and the question to be answered is: What does the pacifist do now?

New way to end war

It is very important in arguing with an open-air crowd, public meeting, or friends and relations, not to attempt to prove something of which we have no proof, by the use of examples that have no relevance to present day facts. There are many examples of pacifist and non-violent resistance to tyranny and of individual resistance to war, but history does not supply us with an example of a great Power renouncing war—sinking its navy, disbanding its army, dismantling its armament factories. This way of ridding the world of wars has not been tried.

The method of war, growing in destructiveness century by century, until nations have come to accept lying propaganda and indiscriminate slaughter as a legitimate if not a moral process has been tried. Those who believe in this method know the results; they have seen and suffered them.

The result of a nation renouncing war is not known; it is a mistake to argue that we know what the result of unilateral disarmament would be; we don't know; we believe it would be right, as we believe the evil and immorality of war to be wrong.

War breeds war

Wars have been tried and lead on to more wars; the proof is before us every day and no one can deny this. Pacifism has not been tried so it cannot be argued that it is "found wanting"; it is a great adventure in faith, based on the belief that ultimately good must prevail.

A closely reasoned argument is not possible with a shifting crowd and a different technique is required for indoor meetings. The London Area gathering of open-air speakers led to a decision to have monthly meetings to discuss and study speaking in all its aspects. I hope other areas will follow this example for we are badly in need of more speakers.

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